Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (currently amended). A composition comprising [[a]] first ~~oligomeric compound~~ and ~~a~~ second oligomeric ~~compound~~ compounds wherein:

at least ~~a portion~~ 18 nucleosides of the first oligomeric compound ~~is~~ are capable of hybridizing with ~~at least a portion of~~ the second oligomeric compound;

at least a portion of the first oligomeric compound is complementary to and capable of hybridizing to a target nucleic acid; ~~and~~

~~at least~~ one of the first and the second oligomeric compounds comprises at least one sugar modified nucleoside having enhanced ~~or decreased~~ affinity for the complementary nucleoside in the composition or between the first oligomeric compound and a nucleic acid target relative to an unmodified ß-D-ribonucleoside; ~~or~~ and

~~one~~ the other of the first and the second oligomeric compounds comprises at least one base modified nucleoside having enhanced ~~affinity for the complementary nucleoside in the composition~~ or ~~between the first oligomeric compound and a nucleic acid target and one of the first and the second oligomeric compounds comprises at least one modified nucleoside having~~ decreased affinity for the complementary nucleoside in the composition or between the first oligomeric compound and a nucleic acid target relative to an unmodified ß-D-ribonucleoside.

2 (currently amended). The composition of claim 1 wherein the first oligomeric compound comprises said at least one sugar modified nucleoside ~~for the complementary nucleoside in the composition or between the first oligomeric compound and a nucleic acid target and either the first oligomeric compound or second oligomeric compound comprises at least one modified nucleoside having a decreased affinity for the complementary nucleoside in the composition or between the first oligomeric compound and a nucleic acid target.~~

3 (currently amended). The composition of claim 1 wherein the ~~first oligomeric compound comprises at least one modified nucleoside having a decreased affinity for the complementary nucleoside in the composition or between the first oligomeric compound and a nucleic acid target, and the~~ second oligomeric compound comprises said at least one sugar modified ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside ~~having an enhanced affinity for the complementary nucleotide in the first oligomeric compound compared to the affinity of an unmodified nucleotide~~.

4 (currently amended). The composition of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the second oligomeric compound comprises at least one base modified ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside having ~~an enhanced~~ decreased affinity ~~for the complementary nucleotide in the first oligomeric compound compared to the affinity of an unmodified nucleotide, and wherein the second oligomeric compound also comprises at least one modified nucleotide having a decreased affinity for the complementary nucleotide in the first oligomeric compound compared to the affinity of an unmodified nucleotide~~.

5 (currently amended). The composition of claim 1 wherein the second oligomeric compound comprises at least one base modified ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside ~~that comprises an~~ having enhanced affinity ~~is a nucleotide comprising a nucleotide base modification~~.

6 (currently amended). The composition of claim 5 wherein the ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside base modification comprises a pyrimidine ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside ~~comprising a modification~~ modified at the 2, 4, 5 or 6 position ~~of the pyrimidine nucleotide~~.

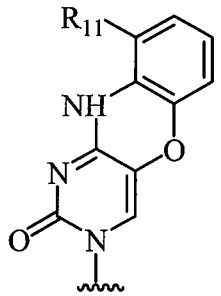
7 (currently amended). The composition of claim 6 wherein the pyrimidine ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside comprises a modification at the 2 or 5 position ~~of the pyrimidine nucleotide~~.

8 (currently amended). The composition of claim 6 wherein the ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside base modification comprises a 2-thio U ~~nucleotide substitution for U nucleotide~~ or 2-thio C ~~nucleotide substitution for a C nucleotide~~.

9 (currently amended). The composition of claim 6 wherein the ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside base modification comprises a 5-alkyl, 5-alkenyl, or 5-alkynyl U ~~substitution for a U nucleotide~~ or 5-alkyl, 5-alkenyl, or 5-alkynyl C ~~substitution for a C nucleotide~~.

10 (currently amended). The composition of claim 6 wherein the ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside base modification comprises a 5-methyl U, 5-methyl C, 5-propynyl U, or 5-propynyl C ~~nucleotide~~.

11 (currently amended). The composition of claim 5 wherein the ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside base modification comprises ~~a pyrimidine having a modification, wherein the pyrimidine nucleotide is incorporated as one ring of a multiple ring heterocycle, wherein the multiple ring heterocycle further comprises a phenoxazine moiety, and wherein the multiple ring heterocycle comprises~~ the formula:



wherein:

R_{11} is $(CH_3)_2N$-$(CH_2)_2$-O-; H_2N-$(CH_2)_3$-; Ph-CH_2-O-C(=O)-N(H)-$(CH_2)_3$-; H_2N-; fluorenyl-CH_2-O-C(=O)-N(H)-$(CH_2)_3$-; phthalimidyl-CH_2-O-C(=O)-N(H)-$(CH_2)_3$-; Ph-CH_2-O-C(=O)-N(H)-$(CH_2)_2$-O-; Ph-CH_2-O-C(=O)-N(H)-$(CH_2)_3$-O-; $(CH_3)_2N$-N(H)-$(CH_2)_2$-O-;

fluorenyl-CH_2-O-C(=O)-N(H)-$(CH_2)_2$-O-; fluorenyl-CH_2-O-C(=O)-N(H)-$(CH_2)_3$-O-; H_2N-$(CH_2)_2$-O-CH_2-; N_3-$(CH_2)_2$-O-CH_2-; H_2N-$(CH_2)_2$-O-, or $NH_2C(=NH)NH$-.

12-13. (cancelled).

14 (original). The composition of claim 5 wherein the ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside base modification comprises a purine ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside ~~comprising a modification~~ modified at the 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 or 8 position ~~of the purine nucleotide~~.

15 (currently amended). The composition of claim 14 wherein the ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside base modification comprises a purine nucleotide ~~comprising a modification~~ modified at the 2, 6 or 7 ~~positions of the purine nucleotide~~ position.

16. (cancelled).

17 (currently amended). The composition of claim 14 wherein the ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside base modification comprises a 2,6-diamino purine ~~substitution for an A nucleotide~~.

18 (canceled).

19 (currently amended). The composition of claim ~~18~~ 1 wherein the ~~nucleotide~~ sugar modification ~~comprise~~ comprises a 2'-substituent group selected from 2'-F, 2'-MOE (2-O-$(CH_2)_2$-OCH_3), 2'-O-methyl, 2'-O-alkyl, 2'-O-alkenyl, 2'-O-alkynyl, 2'-S-alkyl, 2'-S-alkenyl, 2'-S-alkynyl, 2'-amino, 2'-azido, or 2'-allyl.

20-23 (canceled).

24 (currently amended). The composition of claim ~~23~~ 1 wherein the ~~nucleotide~~ base modified nucleoside ~~modification comprises an~~ is inosine ~~nucleotide~~ or ~~a~~ purine ~~ribofuranosyl nucleotide~~.

25-29 (canceled).

30. (currently amended). The composition of claim ~~5~~ 1 wherein the ~~nucleotide base~~ sugar modification comprises a 2'-substituent group which is, independently, F, -O-CH_2CH_2-O-CH_3, -O-C_1-C_{12} alkyl, -O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-NH_2, -O-$(CH_2)_2$-O-N$(R_1)_2$, -O-CH_2C(=O)-N$(R_1)_2$, -O-$(CH_2)_2$-O-$(CH_2)_2$-N$(R_1)_2$, -O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-NHR_1, -O-CF_3, -N_3, -O-CH_2-CH=CH_2, -N$HCOR_1$, -NH_2, -NHR_1, -N$(R_1)_2$, -SH, -SR_1, -N(H)OH, -N(H)OR_1, -N(R_1)OH, -N(R_1)OR_1 or -O-CH_2-N(H)-C(=NR_1)(N$(R_1)_2$);

wherein each R_1 is, independently, H, C_1-C_{12} alkyl, a protecting group, or substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, or C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, wherein the substituent groups are halogen, hydroxyl, amino, azido, cyano, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, thioalkoxy, haloalkoxy, or aryl.

31 (original). The composition of claim 30 wherein each of the 2'-substituent groups is, independently, -F, -O-CH_3, -O-CH_2CH_2-O-CH_3, -O-CH_2-CH=CH_2, -O-CF_3, N_3, NH_2, NHOH, -O-$(CH_2)_2$-O-N$(R_1)_2$, -O-CH_2C(O)-N$(R_1)_2$, -O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-NH_2, -O-$(CH_2)_2$-O-$(CH_2)_2$-N$(R_1)_2$ or -O-CH_2-N(H)-C(=NR_1)(N$(R_1)_2$);

wherein each R_1 is, independently, H, C_1-C_{12} alkyl, a protecting group, or substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, or C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, wherein the substituent groups are halogen, hydroxyl, amino, azido, cyano, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, thioalkoxy, haloalkoxy, or aryl.

32 (original). The composition of claim 31 wherein each of the 2'-substituent groups is, independently, -F, -O-CH_2CH_2-O-CH_3, -O-CH_3, -O-CH_2-CH=CH_2, -O-CF_3 or -O-CH_2-CH-CH_2-$NH(R_j)$ where R_j is H or C_1-C_{10} alkyl.

33 (original). The composition of claim 32 wherein each of the 2'-substituent groups is, independently, F, -O-CH_3, -O-CF_3, or -O-CH_2CH_2-O-CH_3.

34. (currently amended). The composition of claim ~~5~~ 1 wherein at least one sugar modified ~~nucleotide~~ nucleoside ~~base~~ is a locked nucleic acid (LNA).

35-37 (canceled).

38 (currently amended). The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second oligomeric compounds comprises from about 12 to about 30 ~~nucleobases~~ nucleosides.

39 (canceled).

40 (currently amended). The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second oligomeric compounds comprises from about 19 to about 23 ~~nucleobases~~ nucleosides.

41-56 (canceled).

57 (new). The composition of claim 1 wherein each of said sugar modified nucleosides is a 2'-F modified ~~nucleosides~~ nucleoside.

58 (new). The composition of claim 57 wherein one of the first and the second oligomeric compounds comprises a continuous sequence of 2'-F modified nucleosides.

59 (new). The composition of claim 58 wherein the other of the first and the second oligomeric compounds comprises at least one base modified nucleoside having said decreased affinity.

60 (new). The composition of claim 59 wherein each of the base modified nucleosides having said decreased affinity is an inosine modified nucleoside.